

## **IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A catalyst for purifying exhaust gas, which reduces ~~/removes~~ nitrogen oxides in an exhaust gas containing excessive oxygen under the existence of methanol and/or dimethyl ether, characterized in that said catalyst comprises a proton type  $\beta$  zeolite.
2. (Original) A catalyst for purifying exhaust gas according to claim 1, characterized in that a  $\text{SiO}_2/\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  molar ratio of the proton type  $\beta$  zeolite is within 20-70.
3. (Currently Amended) A method of purifying exhaust gas, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said method ~~comprises a step of~~ includes reducing/removing nitrogen oxides in the exhaust gas containing excessive oxygen therein under the existence of methanol and/or dimethyl ether as reducing agent by making the exhaust gas contact with a proton types  $\beta$  zeolite catalyst.
4. (Original) A method of purifying exhaust gas according to claim 3, characterized in that a  $\text{SiO}_2/\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  molar ratio of the proton type  $\beta$  zeolite is within 20-70.